(v) Voluntary organisations are being assisted for providing, *interalia.* vocational training to persons with disabilities; and

(vi) There is a proposal to amend the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunites, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 for providing employment to persons with disabilities in the private sector.

Under Utilisation of Funds by States Under SCP and TSP

3149. SHRI R. S. GAVAI : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any complaints of under utilization of funds by the States earmarked for development schemes under the special component plan and tribal sub plan from National Commission for SC and ST;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action proposed against such States ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) No Sir. However, National Commission for SCs and STs had observed on utilization of SCP fund in its Fourth Report. The Ministry had, examined the utilisation of SCA by the States/UTs during 1990-91 to 1993-94 and it was found that though the utilisation is satisfactory, there was delay in releasing funds to the implementing agencies.

(b) and (c) Questions do not arise.

Properties of Punjab Wakf Board

3150. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Wakf properties of Punjab Wakf Board under encroachment in Haryana/Punjab/Himachal Pradesh and Union Territory of Chandigarah;

(b) whether it is a fact that effective steps for removal of encroachments and retrieval of Wakf properties are not being made by the Punjab Wakf Board;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor, and

(d) the steps taken/being taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT : (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) Around 2120 Wakf properties in Punjab, 630 in Haryana and 26 in Himachal Pradesh are under encroachment.

(b) to (d) No Sir, Punjab Wakf Board is taking effective steps for removal of encroachment and retrieval of Wakf properties by filing a number of cases in courts against the encroachers. The Board has issued notices to the encroachers under section 54 of Wakf Act 1995.

Leasing System of Properties in PWB

3151. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the present non-transparent leasing system of properties in Punjab Wakf Board is the root cause of large-scale corruption;

(b) whether the leasing by open auction can be a transparent and corruption free system; and

(c) if so, the steps taken/contemplated in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) No Sir. The Punjab Wakf Board leases out Wakf properties, as per clearly defined Rent Schedule.

(b) and (c) Leasing of Wakf property by open auction is not feasible as there is no free hold land in the possession of the Board. The properties are either in the possession of the tenants or lessees.

Non-Revision of Rental and Lease Money of PWB Properties

3152. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that in case of thousands of Wakf properties in Punjab Wakf Board the rentals and lease money have not been revised since long;

(b) whether it is a fact that rents/lease money is not automatically revised after a regular interval;